

May 12 1943

Sweetest mother of the hills:

A long letter from you today and hear goes the reinitiation of my middle of the week letters

It's 830pm and a bit chilly out – Have been writing up a daily report of troops working in the magazine area – The troops, took all kinds of ammunitions from box cars into igloos & vice versa – Around 200 troops work each day and about 30 igloos and 20 or 30 box ears are involved; officers are in charge of certain groups, and there is an officer in charge of the entire group – Today was my turn at the latter, for the first time – all the officers do is drive around and keep the ball rolling; 'Tis quite a rest compared with Duffey's regime – He has become a misery [?] now; its interesting how life's rougher moments tend to vanish from one's mind – I rarely ever think of Aberdeen

Like you my happiness over Bezirte & [illegible] is dampened with thoughts of Philip in the thick of the fray – I can't keep from thinking that the next 6 weeks will see a major effort in the direction of the continent – with the Russians winter coming up in a few months and being completely surrounded, I wonder what are Hitler's thoughts

Your remarks about Eden's apathy over the victory was amusing as well as sad; no where throughout the country are people enthusiastic; I believe that press & radio have highlighted news so much during the past [illegible] year, that people can't distinguish it anymore; its all sensational but people have become immune to sensationalism – what I mean to say is that news is just news to people and an allied victory falls in the same category with a major league ball game.

Mother, about the possibility my going overseas – this company is still not finished with its basic training due to work in the magazine area; however it could be sufficiently trained for overseas duty in 3 months – I imagine that I shall be taken out before it leaves & be given a company of my own – a newly activated company – to be trained from scratch- all in all I can't see myself going across (if at all) for at least 6 months – however if something should arise, I shall inform you concerning everything I can – and I imagine that I could convey a good bit.

If nothing unusual happens I should be able to get a 15 day furlough in July or August or maybe late June. Now – could you get a hold of any money at all? Even with a super human effort? If so I will meet you in Denver – I had rather meet you in Denver than come home; now tell Pa Ed not to think I wouldn't care to see him, but I would like for you to be able to make the trip – I could furnish \$150.00 and of which would cover both our train fares – Mine from here & yours from Eden – We would need money for food and lodging for about 10 days in Denver 7 you would need a few clothes – In a way I hate for you to plan on it because it could fall through overnight; Balling had a furlough & was packed & ready to leave – when he was given command of this company last December & the same could happen to me – However once should proceed with places & cross bridges when they arrive

As for my furnishing the \$150.00 have no qualms because I really want to spend it that way – I am very serious in that, and if you should hold back on that account I would feel badly – We have held bac on too many such things – wish you would check on the train fare with Pullman from San Angelo or Ballinger to (round trip) Denver & tell Greer (?) to shake himself out of his Baptist liturgy & give you the correct information; also about reservations & how far ahead a civilian must make then

Am sending a money order for \$150.00 – two money orders; one for \$100.00 & one for \$55.00 please take \$5 or \$10 for yourself – Am putting most of my money in the bank & checking some when necessary

Shall write Leo

Mama I am enjoying life more than I ever did – I worry less and am gayer, eat ravenously & have practically no nightmares

How is the farm by now? And how is Ed feeling

The Eden High School is going the way of all others – Youth in Reno run riot and am a major problem in the city government

Has anyone heard anything of Gwendolynn? I rather like this Anita Barda although I've only had 4 or 5 dates with her

Well sweetest of persons to the BOQ I go where I shall lie to bed to awaken via being yelled at, at [illegible] – don't mind getting up much anymore – even after missing sleep

I love & adore only you

Loving son,

J. Harrod